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Washington, D.C. 20505

Mr. Leo Cherne
Vice Chairman
President's Foreign Intelligence
Advisory Board
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Leo:

This letter will tie up the loose ends on the few remaining issues regarding the status of Intelligence Community activities that respond to PFIAB's recommendations of 1976.

Earlier, I postponed discussion of two issues that were raised in the PFIAB study of 2 December 1976. These two, which I am prepared to address today, were included in a section entitled, "What Will The Intelligence System Need In Order That It Be Capable Of Responding To These Requirements?"

- a. PFIAB observed that a major concern of the Intelligence Community should be the earliest possible awareness of technological breakthroughs in other countries which could have a serious impact on our and other economies.

We are conscious of the need to search for this sort of vulnerability because of its potential importance. There is sustained and expanding activity within the Community monitoring and assessing technological developments in other countries and the associated impact on the U.S. and other economies. The Scientific & Technical Intelligence Committee sponsors the Technological Forecasting Working Group which endeavors to identify civil and military technology 10-20 years in the future. The Committee also sponsors special studies and seminars. Recently, one was held on international productivity.

The Foreign Applied Science Center at CIA examines basic Soviet research and development. Extension of this effort to include [redacted] is now under consideration. A number of research projects are currently underway that address foreign industrial competition. These include [redacted]

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I am pleased to have had the opportunity in these three letters to review for you the Community's capabilities on some very important issues. I have found it enlightening, and I know that members of my staff have found it useful. The current PFIAB is an active one that will no doubt challenge us to move out even more smartly in some of these areas. I welcome your efforts.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey

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